

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) based communications network comprising a plurality of Intermediate Systems (IS), the IS being divided between at least one IS-IS Area and at least one non-IS-IS Area, an IS-IS Area being an area within which a routing protocol forming part of the Network Layer (Layer 3) of the Open Systems Interconnection including routing (OSI), is provided for routing messages between areas, a method is provided wherein static routes (Manual Adjacencies (MA) are created at IS within the IS-IS Area to point to routes to a group of one or more Network Equipments (NEs) within the non-IS-IS Area and where a failure occurs in a link to or within a group and messages from the IS-IS Area to the non-IS-IS Area are looped to the originating IS-IS Area, identification of the NEs from which messages have been looped are removed from the respective MAs allowing routing of messages via alternative MAs.

09040616 031893
RECEIVED " 9T 904060

1